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July 16, 1998

VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

Alva E. Smith  
Office of the General Counsel  
Federal Elections Commission  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: MUR 4766  
R. J. Reynolds Tobacco  
Company

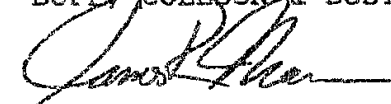
Dear Ms. Smith:

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. was notified on July 6, 1998, that the Federal Election Commission had received a complaint, which has been designated as Matter Under Review 4766. As the Commission has been advised by separate correspondence, Reynolds retained Bopp, Coleson & Bostrom on July 15, 1998, to represent it in this matter.

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(1), Reynolds has the opportunity to demonstrate in writing within 15 days of notification why the Commission should take no further action. Our response would be due on July 21, 1998. We respectfully request an extension of 15 days to respond, which would be August 5, 1998. Because we have just been retained, the additional time is necessary for us to fully apprise ourselves of the facts and the complex legal issues in order to be able to present the Commission with an appropriate response.

Sincerely,

BOPP, COLESON & BOSTROM



James R. Mason, III

cc: Martin L. Holton, III  
Terry O'Donnell